



Global Outreach Charter Academy #122

A Tuition-Free Public School

8985 Lone Star Rd * Jacksonville, Florida 32211

(904) 551-7096 * (904) 551-7120 (fax)

www.gocacademy.com

Sergey Soroka

CEO/Founder

Title IX: Homeless Education Program (HEP)

Every Child Has a Right to an Education

The Federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act states that children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence are considered homeless.

If, due to a loss of housing, a child must live in a shelter, motel, vehicle, or campground, on the street, in abandoned buildings, or doubled-up with relatives or friends, then he/she is eligible to receive services provided under the McKinney-Vento Act.

The McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program is designed to address the problems that homeless children and youth have faced in enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school. Under this program, state educational agencies must ensure that each homeless child and youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as other children and youth.

Homeless children and youth must have access to the educational and other services that they need to enable them to meet the same challenging State student academic achievement standards to which all students are held. In addition, homeless students may not be separated from the mainstream school environment.

Under McKinney-Vento, children (PreK-12) have the right to:

- Continue to attend the school they last attended before they lost their housing (school of origin), if that is the parent/guardian's choice and is in the child's best interest, or the school which is zoned for their temporary residence.
- Enroll and attend classes immediately while the school arranges for the transfer of school and immunization records and other required enrollment documents.
- If necessary, enroll and attend classes in the school selected by the parent/guardian (school of origin or zoned school), while the school and the parent/guardian seek to resolve a

dispute over which school is in the best interest of the child - NOTE: This does not mean any school in the district, only the school of origin or zoned school.

- Receive transportation to the school of origin (if a parent/guardian requests such transportation).
- Participate in any school programs and receive any school services for which they qualify.

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MCKINNEY-VENTO DEFINITION OF HOMELESS

42 U.S.C. § 11434a(2)

The term “homeless children and youth”— A. means individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence...; and

B. includes —

i. children and youths who are sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason; are living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations; are living in emergency or transitional shelters; or are abandoned in hospitals;

ii. children and youths who have a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings...;

iii. children and youths who are living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and

iv. migratory children... who qualify as homeless for the purposes of this subtitle because the children are living in circumstances described in clauses (i) through (iii).

Global Outreach Homeless Committee:

Homeless Liaison for Families in Transition: Yanelis Padilla

Members of the Committee:

- Yanelis Padilla, Homeless Liaison for Families in Transition
- David Soroka, Principal (K-8)
- Tessilia Daniels, Director of ESE (K-8)
- Vitalina Chizh, HR
- Antonina Soroka, CRT

Duval county school district remains the main point of contact for any parent that is facing homeless status. GOCA’s Homeless Liaison will serve to connect the parent with all available district resources and provide any internal assistance that is available within the school.

To identify homeless students, the Homeless Liaison for Families in Transition must:

1. Verify any enrollment applications with the CRT in which parents have self-reported homeless status information on the application.
2. Obtain Focus report from School's CRT once a month to identify any students that have homeless status.
3. Schedule a meeting with Homeless Committee to discuss further steps if a student is deemed homeless in other manners separate from above options 1 and 2.
4. Schedule a meeting with parent/guardian of the student(s) and discuss all options that are available and provided by the School and school district.
5. Follow up with a parent two weeks after the meeting to obtain information on current help being provided by the district and intentions to continue to attend the school.
*(Transportation is not provided by Global Outreach Charter Academy to any of its students, unless the student has an ability and age requirement to use public transportation to get to school. In this case, the school may assist with purchasing monthly bus pass)
6. Consult with assigned Social Worker and school partner, Right Path Services, for all available resources for a homeless student and families in transition.
7. Provide homeless student and families in transition with a district list of safe shelters, food banks and clothing donation companies.
8. Offer homeless student and families in transition donated uniforms (in good condition) that the school keeps on campus for students and families in need.
9. Continue to solicit help from GOCA's Sponsor-a-Child program where members of GOCA's Administration and staff can offer to sponsor a GOCA student in need of uniforms or food.

Please contact Yanelis Padilla, Homeless Student and Families in Transition Liaison, at Global Outreach Charter Academy at (904) 551-7104 with any questions.

Revised March 2021

